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Delight in the Lord
A MANUAL OF DEVOTION ADAPTED
TO THE VARYING EXPERIENCE
OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



Delight in the Lord.

DELIGHT IN THE LORD

A Manual of Devotion,

ADAPTED TO THE VARYING EXPERIENCE OF
THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

BY

HENRY MORRIS,

AUTHOR OF

*"The History of India," "Prayers for Cottage Homes,"
and other works.*

"Delight thyself in the Lord; and he shall give thee
the desires of thine heart."—PSALM XXXvii. 4.

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1888.

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PREFACE.

THERE are few manuals of prayer written in a purely Evangelical spirit. It is not difficult to discover the reason for this. Those who have found and who love the Saviour are taught by the Holy Spirit to pour out their thoughts and feelings in unpremeditated prayer, and many have a decided objection to the use of any form of devotion.

writer of the
 the most unfeigned
 child of God can,
 without continual
 rather in believing
 spontaneous private
 ally be unfettered
 nes even the most
 1 the stated hour
 rhinged, being cast
 mity, by spiritual
 ne other serious
 te of health and
 may, for a season,
 spiritually-minded
 iver to engage
 in prayer. For

such some form of devotion is frequently a solace and a help. It may strike the keynote which will ere long elicit a fuller and freer burst of spiritual devotion, and the whole soul, when thus attuned, will resound with the melody of joyous prayer. Again, it has often been found exceedingly difficult to choose a suitable book of devotion to place in the hands of youthful disciples.

It has been the writer's endeavour to supply, in some slight measure, a manifest want. He has thought it advisable to avoid all reference to *Christian seasons and ordinances* or to

perious of time, and to ad
prayers to various phases of
and experience common to all (minds. If this little volume
prove a help, a comfort, or a co
to any of the believing people
he will receive the fullest and
reward.

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I.

For the Help of the Holy Spirit.

"Praying in the Holy Ghost."—ST. JUDE 20.

MOST gracious, loving, and merciful Father, the giver of all good gifts, who hast promised spiritual assistance to all that draw near thy throne of grace with contrition of spirit and sincerity of purpose, in thy dear Son's name, bestow upon me now the help of thy Holy Spirit. Thou hast promised this gift of gifts to them that ask thee. Thou hast promised to send the Spirit of adoption into their hearts, "*whereby they cry, Abba, Father.*"

I claim and plead thy power
know not what I should pray
I ought, but the Spirit him
making intercession for me. I
the deepest and truest contrition
I am not able, I am not worthy,
anything in my own strength.
thy Holy Spirit breathe word
thoughts of true devotion into my
let him receive of the things of
and show them unto me; let
raise my affections, and thought
desires to things above; let him

se special prerogative and delight it
raise poor, fallen sinners from their
estate, graciously listen to my prayer,
animate my feeble devotions. Enable
to realize the exceeding happiness
privilege of my standing in Christ.
ble me to see how full, complete,
sufficient is the redemption which
was wrought out for me. Let the
ainty that he has taken away every
and stain of sin stand out in all
clearness and beauty before my
ving gaze. Let me see that I have
fully justified in the sight of God
the curse and the pollution of sin.
I rejoice in the perfect freedom
which he has made me free. May
joy that peace, that perfect peace,
h he has left as the precious
age of all his believing people.

receive as full and complete a measure as my capacities can receive, and as my frail nature can bear. May I be raised to near and intimate and close communion with my God and Father in Christ. May I always carry about with me the sweet sense of his abiding presence; but especially in times of retirement and devotion may I feel the strengthening, refreshing, and invigorating sense of heavenly converse; may I wait upon the Lord by thy help and by thy inspiration, and thus "renew my strength; may I mount up with wings as an eagle; may I run, and not be weary; may I walk, and not faint." O fill me with thy renewing, hallowing power. Speak for me. Plead for me. Breathe in me. Raise me out of myself. Stir my dull, cold, inanimate

spirit. warm me with heaven
Brighten my fainting and d
mind. Bring all heaven be
Teach me to see the unseen,
the inaudible sounds of heaven
the fire of genuine devotion ;
thee, with the Father and the S
be endless praise and glory.
and Amen.

II.

For Right in Reading the Scriptures.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”—
2 TIM. iii. 16, 17.

BLESSED be thy holy name, O thou all-wise and omnipotent God, because thou hast, in thine unerring wisdom, been graciously pleased to give to thy servants thy written word, which is “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,” that they may be fully furnished and taught in thy ways. *Each time I take the sacred volume in my*

ine in upon my heart. Teach me how
read it in the right spirit and in the
ght way. Increase in me true grati-
le for having bestowed this inestimable
on upon man. May the love of thy
rd and of thy truth grow with my
owth. Strengthen my understanding
l intellect ; purify my affections ; but,
ve all and beyond all, give me the
stened, lowly, and childlike spirit
ch will enable me to read and study,
ark, learn, and inwardly digest," to
profit of my soul and the strength -

and continuously. Help me sometimes to read whole books through without pausing, thus taking deep draughts of the heavenly stream, and gathering in the full scope of thy sacred revelation. At other times, I would linger over each word, or take some delightful promise or precept as my solace during the labours of the day or the solitude of night. Help me to compare Scripture with Scripture. Preserve me from the habit to which human nature is prone, of relying only on certain favourite passages; but may I endeavour to gather thy whole counsel and to store it in my heart. Make me "mighty in the Scriptures." May they prove the sweetest subjects for meditation, the companion of my travel, the joy of my life, the inspirer of my best and choicest thoughts,

the guide of my feet in the ways of b
the light of my domestic life, th
comfort and consolation in the
affliction, the day-star of hope dur
storms through which I must pa
anchor of my soul in uncertaint
prelude and foretaste of the j
heaven; and may they be all
because they speak of him who is
all to me, and is all in all in them

O gracious God, who art the g
all true wisdom and heavenly lea

extravagant teaching or comments. May I honestly desire to know only what thou hast said exactly in the spirit in which thou dost intend me to take it. Give me also the spirit of devotion, that prayer may mingle with my reading and study. May I turn all that I read into humble petition. May thy word thus be used for practical profit, and may I find myself daily "growing in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Prizing the precious truths of thy word "better than thousands of gold and silver," may I do all that lies in my power to send it to those who now have it not, and are perishing for lack of this spiritual knowledge.

Teach me to follow the perfect *example of Jesus*. When Satan entices

and tempts, may I use "the sword of the Spirit, which is thy word," and be enabled to answer every temptation and every cavil, as he did, with thê simple, but powerful answer, "It is written." Bring to my recollection the very words of Scripture just at the moment it should be applied. May I "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh me a reason of the hope that is in me with meekness and fear." In time of sickness help me to remember the promises that have been a comfort to me in the time of health. When dispirited and cast down, may I be sustained by the comforting sayings of Jesus. When I am laid low, and am drawing near to "the valley of the shadow of death," may my heart be *stayed on the divine words which have*

encouraged and cheered me in life ; and may the happiness of heaven dawn on my departing spirit while the old familiar accents of hope spoken from thy word still fall on my ear. O Lord, let thy word be indeed "a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" in all the changing scenes of life, and in the hour of death, for the sake of Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

III.

Before Self-examination

“I commune with mine own heart
spirit made diligent search.”—PSALM 1

O THOU great and glorious
present and omniscient J
in whose sight even “the heav

O give me, I beseech thee, the help of thy blessed Spirit that I may know myself thoroughly and examine myself truly. May his light illumine every corner and crevice of my heart, so that no evil thing may be wilfully hidden, slurred over, or concealed. I earnestly desire the inestimable blessing of self-knowledge, and humbly pray that I may search my heart and probe my conscience as if I were about immediately to receive the final summons into thy royal presence, and to appear before the judgment-seat of thy well-beloved Son. Or rather, do thou thyself examine me by the light and by the power of thy Holy Spirit. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

may I be sincere. Preserve :
confessing some sins and hiding
Keep me from dallying with ev
me hate and abhor every ev
May I hate sin, because it is s
because it led my Lord to the cr
grave, and not only because of
sequences and penalty. Help me
to the root of the whole matter
evil nature is dragging me down,
need the precious blood of Jesus
applied to every part of my
Teach me to track the source of

things which I ought not to have done ; and there is no health in me." May my self-examination be thorough, and do thou thyself teach me how to conduct it. Bring to my remembrance all that I have done amiss ; enable me to place all before thee, the great searcher of hearts, in a clear and orderly manner ; and give me a meek, lowly, and humble spirit, and reverent demeanour during the time of self-examination.

Above all, I earnestly pray for reality. Let there be nothing false or unreal about me. May I be perfectly true and genuine. Let there be nothing like double-dealing with myself. Such duplicity is most hateful in thy sight. "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." Save me from self-

deception. I am painfully aware that terribly subtle the tempter is, deceitful and desperately wicked his heart is; but I beseech thee give me clearness of spiritual vision and heavenly insight into my own character, so that I may not be deceived by the artful suggestions of the world, or by the crafty insinuations of the evil nature. May the Holy Spirit reveal to me more and more of myself. I pray that I may be one of those lowly followers of the Lord

qualities may not degenerate into morbidness or despair. While I would never dare to say, Peace, peace, when there is no peace, it is not right, on the other hand, that I should say there is no peace, when there is ; and, when I know the worst of myself, I implore thee to send home to my heart the pure comfort of the Gospel, "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous : and he is the propitiation for our sins." "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin." May I remember, even when sin and iniquity most loudly accuse, that my sins have been imputed unto thy dear Son, and that his righteousness has been imputed unto me ; and this happy exchange being made, may I lay hold of it *by faith*, may I cast all my burden

on my way re-
light and liberty of the
return to any known sin,
more closely, more humbl
fidingly than ever with my
my God. All I ask is in
Saviour's name. Amen.

IV.

For Reality.

“If thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.”—MATT. vi. 22.

O THOU who art the light eternal and the fountain of sincerity and truth, graciously permit me to draw very near to thee at this time. I am perfectly aware that thy searching eye sees me through and through, and there can be nothing hidden from thine all-penetrating gaze. May I ever remember this, and may I rejoice in the fact. Standing before thee in the righteousness of *Jesus, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit,*

I want to feel comfort in the thought that thou knowest all which is passing in my heart; and may I never fall into wilful sin so that I may long, if possible, to get away from thy presence and to shrink from thy sight. Lord, thou knowest that, notwithstanding the frailty of my nature, my continual failures, and my constant lapses, I desire to serve thee faithfully and to have my heart right with thee. Teach me to examine myself carefully, and help me to form a true estimate of my position before thee.

I earnestly pray for reality and sincerity in my service of thee. Let there be no lurking hypocrisy in my heart. Let me never be one thing in one place and another in another. Let me never serve *thee only at certain times and seasons.*

O grant that I may not be ready to talk of thee and of thy blessed religion in public, while in my secret chamber I am careless and indifferent, thoughtless and ungodly. Make me true and real. May I be like a genuine coin fresh stamped from thy heavenly mint. Above all, may I not deceive myself. This self-deception is, I know, a very insidious form of Satan's evil devices, and I dread it exceedingly. May the Holy Spirit so take of the things of Jesus and apply them to my soul that I may be perfectly honest and sincere with myself and with thee. Let me have a single eye and a simple aim in all I do. I wish to follow the directions and example of my Lord. May light from heaven shine in my heart; may my eye be single and *my whole soul and body full of light.*

Christian indeed
is no guile."

"Behold," O gracious
desirest truth in the inv
Thou only canst give me th
transparent truth. I hate
way. I dread anything like
or double-mindedness. Yet
scious that I am not always
But thou canst give me th
my heart. TH

people. Let me live in the light of this belief. Let me never be ashamed to confess him. Let all around see that, whenever I speak of him or plead for him, there is earnestness and reality and genuineness and truth in my every word and gesture. Let my whole life testify of the living truth. Nothing is so persuasive as this. If I wish to win souls for Christ, I must be seen to be real and true. I want to be working for my Lord and Master in the way he may appoint, and I beseech thee to give me the very source and strength of all true work. "Thy secret," O Lord, "is with them that fear thee," and "all thy paths are mercy and truth unto such as keep thy covenant and testimonies." O for the true and trusty heart which is indeed "*a temple of the Holy Ghost*,"

wherein may dwell those lovely and beautiful graces of the Spirit, reality, sincerity, and truth ; and all I ask is in the name of thy dear Son, who is himself "the truth" as well as the way and the life. Amen.

V.

For Holiness.

“The beauty of holiness.”—1 CHRON. xvi. 29.

“**H**OLY, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come,” “the whole earth is full of thy glory.” I, a poor sinful creature, kneel before thee, and, clothed in the righteousness of Jesus, enter by faith into the holy of holies. I draw very near to thee in this spiritual manner, putting aside for a season even the lawful concerns of the world; and my special object in approaching thee at this time is, to ask thee to give me *out of the fulness of thy blessings in*

ness. May the Holy Spirit him
abiding in my heart as in a beaut
temple which he has prepared for
service, thoroughly cleanse and sanc
my whole moral and spiritual being, :
teach me how to hold communion w
thee, the Father of holiness and lig
with the utmost veneration, reverer
and awe. Yet, as thine adopted :
in Jesus Christ, I come with confide
and courage.

o o o o

and pliable, and sweetly responsive to the faintest whisper of the Spirit's voice. May I love all that relates to thee and thy service with loyal devotion. May I hate, with a righteous hatred, everything that is opposed to thee. May I be very watchful, and guard against the least uprising of unholiness in my own heart. Let the sanctification of the Holy Spirit be ever deepening and widening, and progressing, so that my entire character may be holy, and on all my conduct be inscribed "Holiness to the Lord." I know that I cannot attain to sinless perfection while still an inhabitant of earth ; but may I reach as near it as mortal man can hope to go. I ask this great blessing in Jesus' name, who "was made unto us *sanctification*" as well as "*wisdom,*

righteousness, and redemption." I glory in the fact that I owe all to him ; and, even if I could attain the highest height of my desire, the more the Holy Spirit vouchsafed to bestow upon me, the more heartily I would ascribe my whole salvation to what he has done for me and outside of me, and to nothing in myself, even though it be the blessed work of the Spirit within, sanctifying me and drawing me gently onward and upward.

O Holy Spirit of the living God, make me pure to my heart's core. Let nothing impure pollute my thoughts. The very purest purity becomes the follower of Jesus. May the white flower of chastity ever be mine. Vouchsafe *unto me perfect self-control in every*

respect. Temperate and sober, let me be filled with thyself. Let neither prosperity nor adversity throw my mind off its balance in the very slightest degree. Let me regard everything as the follower of the Lord ought, thinking first of the spiritual and heavenly bearing of every transaction. Let me be sweet and gentle to all. Let me not err on the side of harshness or strictness, except towards myself. May real holiness add a charm to all I think and do and say. May holiness soften and sweeten and smooth away every asperity of manner or thought. May I serve thee in "the beauty of holiness," and let not this beauty be the outward adorning of even religious service, but the enduring and sterling beauty of the *heart and mind*.

My Father, teach me to do
the worship of the sanctuary.
let me join heartily in the
communion of the saints. Let
characterize my demeanour and
action. Let me join in prayer, and
desiring to advance in holiness,
grow in grace. Let me join in
praise, really feeling grateful to
all thy goodness to me and to
people. Let me listen to the word
and preached with the desire of learning
more and knowing more. Let me

y inner life, my outward behaviour, my religious services. Let me be y in all manner of living," and here- may I be admitted into that happy holy place, where there shall be no to pray for purity and holiness, use nothing that defiles can enter , but all who have here been washed e blood of the Lamb and made holy e working of the Spirit shall be r still" throughout the countless of a joyful eternity. That I may be g thine holy ones here and hereafter restly pray, O holy Father, for the of thy well beloved Son, Jesus . Amen.

VI.

For Heavenly-mindedness

“Set your affection (set your mind, on things above, not on things on the earth)
COL. iii. 2.

GRACIOUS and ever-loving Father,
the very thought of whom
calm and quietness and peace to
troubled soul, who “inhabitest etc

sweet sense of thy presence and favour pervade my whole being. Let the rapture of communion with thee take such complete possession of me that I may lose the remembrance of all the disquieting and disturbing influences of earth, and enter somewhat into the hallowing atmosphere of heaven. I want to be heavenly-minded. I long, not only while actually engaged in prayer, but at all times and in every employment, to have my soul attuned to the harmonies of that happy place where thou art, whither my Lord and Master has gone to prepare a place for me, where the "innumerable company of angels" is, and where are "the spirits of just men made perfect."

O Lord, give me the spirit of heavenli-

ness. There is much here to distract ;
perturb my mind. Thou knowest I
often I am moved by trivial occurrences
which ought not to disturb me ; but
frequently I am agitated by unworthy
feelings and thoughts ; how very often
the things of earth push aside the things
of heaven, and usurp their right
place. These declensions from the right
grieve and distress me. O breathe into
my heart, I beseech thee, calming &
soothing thoughts of thee and heaven.
Take from me all worldly-mindedness.

and nerve and animate me to run the race and fight the battle and long for the crown, ever looking unto him "who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of thy throne."

For the few moments while I wait on thee in prayer, the world and the things of the world are put on one side. I am alone for a season. Heaven seems near, and its joys are sweet. But I earnestly desire that the same feeling and the same high resolves may penetrate into all I do. During the busiest scenes of life may I remember "whose I am, and whom I serve." May the holy principles of thy word and will direct me in all the business I may have to

associated with my fellow-men.
do everything cheerfully, as thou
do in heaven. May my thoughts
be characterized by the ideas of
heaven. May my words be sweet and
truthful as the words thou
spokest in heaven. May my actions
be such as I shall wish them to have
been when I look back upon them
in retrospect of heaven. Make me
with a heavenly purity. Clothe me
in the imputed righteousness of
Christ which will be my only passion.

and thus may my spirit be cheered and my heart refreshed, and may the spiritual glory stream in on my soul, transfiguring and transforming my whole being, and giving me a foretaste of the exceeding blessedness and the ineffable joy of the coming time when I shall enter into the immediate presence of him who loved me and gave himself for me, and I "shall see his face," and "his name shall be in my forehead," and I shall be "like him" for ever and ever. To which unspeakable happiness I pray that I may be admitted for his dear sake. Amen.

VII.

Against Spiritual Prid

“What hast thou that thou didst not r
—1 COR. iv. 7.

MOST High God, our loving F
impress me, I beseech thee
a more becoming sense of thine exc
majesty, dignity, and power.

Spirit, that I may abstract my mind from every worldly thought, and that I may be enabled to hold holy communion with thee through that blessed Spirit, untroubled by doubt and undefiled by sin. With all my heart I thank thee, and bless and praise thy holy name, for thy great goodness in revealing to me the way of salvation in thine unerring word, in leading me to accept free and full atonement in Christ, in opening my eyes to see the truth which alone can make me free from sin and Satan, and giving me the Holy Spirit to renew and cleanse my sinful soul. I thank thee, with all my heart, for the privileges of the Gospel. I thank thee that I live in a land where its clear light is shining, that thou hast led my feet into its way of pleasantness and peace.

WHAT I particularly wish to
at the present time is that I
preserved from every form of
pride. Let me never boast
spiritual privileges and advantages
are very great, and I thank
them, and desire to rejoice in
but they bring with them very
responsibility. "Unto whomsoever
is given, of him shall much be required."
Let this great responsibility
oppress me and bear me down.
let it stimulate me to make more

every moment lest assurance turn to presumption, and rejoicing into boasting, and faith into undue confidence. "Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not." "Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe." Let the blessings which thou hast so freely given me be all used in exactly the right way, for thy glory, for the good of others, and for my own everlasting welfare.

O holy and heart-searching God, I especially pray that I may be saved from the Pharisaical spirit which thy dear Son so thoroughly condemned when he was on earth. Save me from the least taint of hypocrisy. Let me never trust in myself that I am righteous and despise others. Let me never say in a boasting spirit, "God, I thank thee,

since I am not as other men at
thank thee, O my God, that I
as I see some are, living without
the world; but this is in no
spirit at all, but in simple grati
adoring praise, at the same time
the deepest humility and rever
have nothing that I did not
Give me the true lowliness
Publican. Let me feel that, in
am a sinner, miserable and unde
in Christ Jesus, I am a saint.
my salvation to him from begi

Christian manner may be such that no one may have cause to speak against thy religion on account of my exhibiting it before them in a wrong light. Let me never have the forbidding manner, suggesting to others, even though it may be untruly, that I am more righteous than they. Let me not do anything merely to be seen of men. O that the fearful sentence, "Verily I say unto you, they have their reward," may never be uttered regarding me. Preserve me also from false security, imagining that outward privileges can avail anything without an inward change of heart. May the work of thy Spirit go very deep, and may every lingering trace of hypocrisy, or self-deceit, or presumption, or spiritual pride, or despising of others, be

completely enaced, for the
him whose precious blood ca
every speck and stain of sin,
"is able to keep me from fa
to present me faultless be
presence of thy glory with
joy," Jesus Christ our Lord.

VIII.

For the Grace of True Humility.

“God giveth grace unto the humble.”—
ST. JAMES iv. 6.

ALMIGHTY and ever-loving God,
who givest grace unto the humble,
I, thine unworthy and unfaithful servant,
but one who desires to be made faithful
by thy strength and worthy through thy
dear Son, draw near unto thee in prayer
in order that I may receive the grace
thou art so willing to bestow. I come
looking entirely to him who was himself
meek and lowly and humble, and who
desires that his servants should be so too

DELIGHT IN THE LORD.

isting in the perfect manner in
he kept the whole of thy law as
representative, while, at the same
e showed a spirit of complete
y. I pray that I may never for-
amazing example of unselfishness
mility which he has set. Equal
hee in glory and majesty, he
d himself of his inherent glory,
ok our nature on him, while, as
e was more meek and humble
tle and self-forgetting than any
s ever yet been. O that I may
ngthened by the Holy Spirit to
his example of humility and
ss.

me to be thoroughly humble in
Let there be a reality about all
say in this respect. All are

liable to deceive themselves in this matter. The temptations of the great enemy are very subtle. Men do humble actions and speak humble words, but there is pride lurking even in their humility. There is the temptation not to be real. O God, let the Holy Spirit preserve me from this. May he show me my own true character. May he enable me to see that humility is of no avail, is not, in fact, humility at all, unless I know and feel in my heart of hearts that there is really no good thing in me, and that I have nothing whatever in myself in which I can glory or rely. Let me be humble in my attainments, for I have nothing which I did not receive. Let me be humble as to my position in life, my pecuniary affairs, my *bodily strength*. If I enjoy blessings in

away in a moment, and I am merely
steward regarding them. Let me
be humble as to my intellectual powers
whatever they may be, and let me be
sanctified to thy service. The
highest height I can attain is as nothing
in comparison with what the
glimpse of eternity will reveal. Let
me be humble as to my spiritual attain-
ments. Here, if anywhere, there is
absolutely no room to glory. I owe
all to my dear Lord, who to save me

When I contemplate thy majesty, thy mercy, and thy love, it is impossible not to feel humble ; but, I beseech thee, make me humble towards those around me. May I regard others as better than myself. May I be ready to take the lowest place. May I be willing to succour and assist the poorest of thy flock. O my Father, if there is one grace on which thy dear Son insisted more than another, and on which he dwelt in his teaching with peculiar tenderness, it was the grace of humility. I entreat thee, grant it unto me in all its abundance and fulness. Let me know more of its sweetness and persuasiveness. Let it not come upon me with crushing and overwhelming power ; but let me be *gently led* by realizing more fully thy

love and condescension in our redemption, to see that I am nothing in myself, that I have nothing, and that I hope for nothing except in Jesus; and may this sense of having received everything render me deeply humble towards thee, towards my fellow-Christians, and towards all mankind, for the sake of my always humble, but now exalted Lord and Saviour. Amen.

IX.

For Submissibeness.

“My soul is even as a weaned child.”—

Ps. cxxxi. 3.

O GOD, my God, the very joy and stay of my heart, I would draw near thy mercy-seat with the deepest humility and reverence, trusting only in the perfect merits and in the finished work of thy dear Son. May the Holy Ghost breathe into my heart the spirit of the truest confidence in thee and of submission to thy divine will. Thou didst not spare thine own Son, but *deliveredst* him up for us all, and thou

hast promised that with him thou wouldest also freely give us all things. I pray, therefore, that thou wouldest mercifully be pleased to bestow on me the grace of meek submission, and that there may be wrought in me something of the same mind which was in him.

Thou, O my Father, seest the end from the beginning. Nothing is hidden from thine all-searching eye. Thou knowest exactly what is most for my good and most for thy glory. I firmly believe that thou art making all things to work together for my eternal welfare, because I love thee; but I am, just at present, unable to see that this is the case, and, therefore, I wish to trust thee implicitly, and to believe, though *I cannot understand*, to confide, though

I cannot see. Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief. I would place my hand in thine, and suffer thee to lead me even through the dark.

I am fully convinced, O my gracious God, that thou knowest far better than I what is for my good. I would lie passive in thy hand to work thy sovereign will. My earnest desire is to choose the better part, and to sit, like Mary, at my Master's feet, to hear his winning words of love, and to drink in deep draughts of his heavenly spirit. Draw me nearer to thyself in meek submissiveness and resignation. I am too much inclined to trust to myself and to lean to my own understanding; too anxious to be stirring in thy service and to be up and *doing*; and too little disposed to sit

ist in self, in the flesh, or in man,
d solemnly, sincerely, earnestly place
yself afresh in thy hands, believing
at, as one of thy own ransomed
ildren in Christ, thou wilt give me
e blessing I need and so much desire,
the blessing of perfect submission
d of perfect confidence in thee and
thy love. And this blessing I ask
ly in Jesus' name. Amen.



X.

For a Cheerful Spirit.

“Rejoice in the Lord.”—PHIL. iii. 1.

O THOU who “rejoicest over thy people to do them good,” and who art full of compassion and loving-kindness, pour into my heart, I beseech thee, a sense of thy great goodness and a devout spirit of thankfulness and joy. I have a profound conviction that thy blessed religion is no mere system of melancholy routine or outward observance, but a service full of happiness and peace. I am fully convinced that it is one of Satan’s most

my service as melancholy, dull,
forbidding. May he never thus de-
me. Open thou mine eyes that I
see the exceeding beauty of my
and the exceeding excellence of
religion. May I see how infinitely
excels the service of the world or
highest and most exquisitely beaut
of all its attractions. May the n
intellectual pursuits and the n
fascinating pleasures be tasteless
insipid in comparison with the sac
and heavenly delights of the service

consciousness of forgiven sin imparts, ever be mine. "Blessed" indeed "is the man unto whom thou dost not impute iniquity." All my sins have been imputed unto my Lord, and his righteousness has been imputed unto me. I ought, therefore,—yea, rather, I will, therefore, "be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, and shout for joy." Unforgiven sin is "the sting of death," and the torment of life; but enable me, O my God, clearly to see that all my sin has been completely done away in Christ, and strengthen me that I may keep firm hold on him, and then let me continually go on my way rejoicing. Constant looking to Jesus must impart constant joy. Let me never take my eyes away from him, and so shall my "*joy be full.*"

the inestimable blessing of a calm even temper. May I not be one very elated with spiritual joy, another low-spirited and depressed. mine be the calm and happy temperament of those who, having once accepted Christ, are fully persuaded that they trust him to the end, and, there cannot be moved from their integrity. May no act or words of mine ever cause thine enemies to blaspheme. May whole manner be sunny, joyous, attractive. Take away all



FOR A CHEERFUL SPIRIT.

and the religion I love. When human nature will assert itself against me, overcome by it, Lord, do thou speak to my heart, and restore me to myself, and shed upon me the light of thy presence. Let even the shadow of death be dispersed.

O my God, let all my friends see and know by personal experience how exceedingly blessed and joyous and happy thy religion is. Let all know that thy service is so sweet no earthly portion can be compared with it; thy paths are so pleasant the world has nothing to be placed in the same light with them; thy rewards, even in this life,—in quietness of conscience and in the assurance of thy favour,—are ten thousand times better than the greatest honours &c

the life to come are so exquisite and delightful that every happy simile and language can supply is employed in word to describe them. Having experienced blessedness here and these glorious hopes for the future, let me "rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" and let the contented mind and cheerful manner show to all men that I have indeed found "pastures of tender mercies" and waters of quietness" under the guidance of that Good Shepherd whose name I want to praise.



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XI.

For the Grace of Contentment

“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content.”—PHIL. iv. 11. (F)

GRACIOUS and all-loving God, knowest me thoroughly, knowing the weakness of my nature, dost pity and forgive, I approach with reverence and awe in the name of Jesus. The grace of which, at this time, I most stand in need is contentment. I am feeling inclined to murmur and repine; and, therefore, I come to thee at once to ask for thy forgiveness and to seek for thy comfort. O give

the assistance of thy Holy Spirit that these unholy and unchristian feelings may mercifully be subdued within me. Help me to feel the sacred calm and the heavenly soothing which thou alone canst bestow. Give me, in the first place, strength to overcome my spiritual enemy, to banish from my heart these unworthy sentiments, and to feel thoroughly persuaded of thy fatherly care, wisdom, and foresight in reference to my own position in life; and then infuse into my soul the heavenly balm of thy divine consolation.

Enable me to recall to mind what my Lord and Master endured for my sake. There is absolutely no trouble, or poverty, or inconvenience I can *endure* in this life which can be



FOR CONTENTMENT.

compared, even in the faintest with what he suffered for me. 1
"despised and rejected of men
"had not where to lay his head
endured the "contradiction of sinn
he, the Creator of all, was subject t
own creatures ; he, the King of 1
and Lord of lords, was obedient to
ephemeral potentates of earth ;
"though he was rich, yet for our sa
became poor, that we through
poverty might become rich." O G
enable me more thoroughly to comp
hend the exceeding degradation my L
endured, in order that I may, in so
slight measure, understand the ric
of his grace and the depth of his lo
This thought will, I am sure, drive fr
ny heart all lingering murmurs tha
m not in a higher position, or in b

...or in stronger heart
I am. Let the light of his div
shine my heart on, and char
every unworthy thought and
discontented feeling.

Help me also to see how com
thou knowest what is best fo
Thou didst ordain my position
with a precision which baffles my
comprehension. Thou hast assu
that "all things work together f
good," if only I am one of thine
and thine

heart and soul, upon thy fatherly goodness. Banish every base murmur. Subdue every childish fear. Forgive every unmanly complaint. Not only cheer and rejoice me by thy forgiving grace now; but preserve me in my future path from foolish murmurs and discontent. Let me strive to do the best with what I possess. All that I have really belongs to thee, whether it be much or little, and I am only placed in charge of it for a short space of time.

O my God, drive away any cloud that may be lingering round my soul. Disperse every mental mist. Let the Sun of Righteousness shine in, and may he give me warmth and light and clearness and strength. May I have joy and peace in believing. May I have

the full assurance of thy favour. May I seek first thy kingdom and righteousness, and then add whatever thou seest best. Withhold from me in love many of the things which, in my blindness, I imagine would be most for my good. Fill me with simple faith, and truthful love, and calm patience, and quiet obedience, and to thee shall be all the praise and all the glory in the name of thy dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

XII.

Against Ambition.

"Lord, I am not high-minded. . . . I do not exercise myself in great matters which are too high for me."—PSALM cxxxi. 1, 2. (P. V.)

MOST gracious and merciful God, who regardest "him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at thy word," I bend before thy throne in all meekness, lowliness, and prostration of spirit. May the Holy Spirit teach me how to offer my petition for humility and submission, in the name of my blessed Saviour who was himself most "meek and lowly in heart."

Help me ever to call to mind that he who made all things "and by whom all things consist," was content to empty himself of the glory which he had with thee before the foundation of the world ; "to take upon him the form of a servant, and to be made in the likeness of men ; and being found in fashion as a man, to humble himself, and become obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Remembering this divine example, I would not be high-minded, or have great and exalted thoughts of honour and preferment in this present world.

Mercifully take away from my heart all ambitious ideas. Let me not dream *of making a great name or of being admitted to a higher position than that*

in which thy Providence has placed me. Let my mind never be disturbed nor my spirit disquieted by hearing of the great achievements of others. Let me never long for human applause. Help me to recollect that very pathetic and very solemn saying which he who knew the secrets of every heart pronounced, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!" Let me never be turned aside from the straight path of godliness and rectitude by any of the enticing attractions of the world, whether they be sensuous or intellectual. May I always seek thy praise rather than the praise of man. May I ever go straightforward in the road which leads to life, "choosing rather to suffer affliction," if need be, "with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a

season," having "respect unto the recompense of the reward," and keeping ever in view the pure pleasures of Zion, the city of God, whither, I trust, I am journeying.

If, on the other hand, I should be called to fill any position of confidence or trust, or to serve my country in any way, exalted or not, thou wilt give the needful grace and strength to perform the duty or to fulfil the trust aright. But whatever may befall me, I desire to be quite certain that I am being led by thee at every step. Thou wilt bestow the strength for every burden thou mayest impose. Let me, however, be perfectly submissive to thy blessed will in every thing. Purge *away every desire* for great things for

myself. Let me not be feverishly seeking for advancement. Let me not be full of ambitious plans and schemes. Let me not

“Have the restless will
That hurries to and fro,
Seeking for some great thing to do,
Or secret thing to know.”

Rather, I would take up the concluding sentiment of this verse :

“I would be treated as a child,
And guided where I go.”

If thou shouldest ever put any pure or lovely thing or any plan of good report into my heart, assure me that it is really from thee, and then sanctify both it and me. Let me have no vain-glorious striving after the approbation even of good men. Let my one aim be to please thee, to do thy will, to walk in

thy way, to follow the lowly example of my Lord and Master, who would not listen for a moment to the suggestions of Satan, and who would not turn aside one inch from the pathway to Jerusalem which ended in Gethsemane and Calvary. Again I pray with all my heart and soul, give me some of the meekness, and lowliness, and self-abnegation, and thorough devotion, and perfect submission which characterized his spotless life ; and all I ask is in his most holy name. Amen.

XIII.

Against Luxuriousness.

"Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith."—
PROVERBS xv. 16.

ETERNAL and omnipotent God, who didst create all things by the fiat of thy word, who "puttest down one, and settest up another," and in whose absolute disposal is all the wealth of the universe, enable me now to draw near to thee with the deepest reverence. Blessed Saviour, who, when thou wast on earth, didst live in poverty and discomfort, and, though Lord of all,

... for a time possessor of n
teach me how to follow in thy
steps. Holy Spirit, who hast su
power over the hearts of all, help
have right desires, and then to e
them in fitting words. O Gl
Trinity, three persons and yet one
give me sincerity in my praye
I raise my petition for freedom
worldly ambition, covetous desires,
luxurious habits. I pray that
may be given unto me that I ma
ever ready to "endure hard-

strength. Help me to put away everything that may hinder me in the conflict—not only “the sin which doth so easily beset me,” but every hindrance of every kind. I want my eye to be fixed on the end and the reward, so that I may despise the perils of the way. Let me go on my heavenly course with the citadel of Zion ever in my sins.

O Lord God, much is said about the luxuriousness of the present day. There is too much effeminacy and ease, too little self-denial and restraint. I lift my eyes to thee, “O thou that dwellest in the heavens.” “I lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help,” and I pray for the grace of simplicity. May I be preserved from the spirit of luxury. May I be plain and

cometh the follower of the meek and
humble Son of man, who "had
where to lay his head," and who was
"despised and rejected of men." I
will not lead a life of luxury and self-
indulgence, like that poor man of whom
it was said that in his lifetime he had
received his good things. May I have
my treasure laid up in heaven, and may
my heart ever be there.

O God, whatever my circumstances
may be, whatever I

poverty ; but I pray for power to live simply, and not to be turned away from my integrity by the love of good living, or sumptuous entertainments, or beautiful estates, or exquisite art, or rare books, or by any of the thousand things which the great tempter places about our way to entrap unwary souls, and to beguile the Christian soldier from his allegiance to his Lord. On the other hand, let me not imagine that poverty or abstinence from luxury is, in itself, a virtue meriting reward. All I have and all I am able to forego, all my righteousness and all my strength, I owe to the One whose name I bear, and whose approval I seek.

Dear Saviour ! I want to be simple and manly in my tastes and ways,

wert so. Let not men who lo
make a name for themselves and
not for thee despise luxurious
because they want to give their
strength to their labour and toil,
I, the disciple of thee, the cr
Nazarene, professing to rely only o
grace and finished work, lead a
quiet ease and self-indulgence.
and strengthen me in thy service
soldier of the cross, let me live
so many of thy faithful servant

ited by the consolations of thy
and the sound of thy word ; and
ong the temptation to luxury on
will be ended, and I trust, with
le confidence, to hear thine approv-
welcome, "Well done, good and
al servant, enter thou into the joy
y Lord." Saviour, grant this for
ericy's sake. Amen.

XIV.

Against Despondency.

“The joy of the Lord is your strength:
NEHEMIAH viii. 10.

O MOST gracious and merciful
without whom there is no
happiness or joy, I, a poor, ungodly
sinner, full of evil forebodings, disquiet
and dejected in spirit, draw near
thee in the name of thy beloved

O my God, my heart yearns after thee. "Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but thou art the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever." I sincerely desire to find my comfort in thee, and to lean my whole weight upon thee in this time of despondency and fear. "My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is." O cheer me with thine approving smile, and strengthen me with refreshing streams from the river of the water of life.

I wish to remember, when I feel downcast and disquieted, how much thou hast done for me in Christ, and *fully to realize the greatness and the*

strength of my salvation. I
give thine own well-beloved Son
my nature upon him, and to
full, perfect, and complete satisfaction
for all my sins. He who knew
was made sin for me. He
whole of thy pure law for
righteousness is imputed unto
I fully realize my position as
saved by grace, completely justified
thy sight, and graciously accepted
thy family. I plead, therefore
my heart and soul and strength

sary, Satan, and enable me to triumph in my Saviour, who is more powerful than he.

I am aware that, owing to the infirmity of my human nature, I am liable to these feelings of despondency, but graciously let the spirit prevail over the flesh. Teach me to carry into practice the apostolic precept, which I regard as thine own divine command, "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." May the Holy Spirit take of the things of Jesus, and show them unto me, so that I may know more and more of his abounding love, and see that all things are indeed in my favour, and that, even though trial and adversity may befall me, he will never leave and never forsake me, and may I fully

understand how he wishes me to be a happy, rejoicing, and triumphant Christian, the light of his love shining in my heart and the reflection of it brightening even my outward appearance. Drive away all low spirits and everything in me that is derogatory to thee and to thy cause. Comfort my own heart, and grant that no one may be discouraged or disheartened or induced to think lightly of thy blessed service by any coldness, deadness, or downheartedness on my part. "Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon me." "In thy name may I rejoice all the day : and in thy righteousness may I be exalted."

While I pray for myself, I also pray *for others*. Cheer and animate all who,

as I was, may be desolate and cast down. Strengthen all thy feeble or unhappy servants. As I am now rejoicing in the Lord so may their hearts be lightened. Send all who are now praying to thee for succour, rejoicing on their way. Give them "beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness," and to thy name be all the glory in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XV.

In Times of Perplexity.

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord."—PSALM xxxvii. 23.

MOST loving Father, whose knowledge is infinite and whose wisdom is perfect, who seest "the end from the beginning," permit me, thine unworthy servant, to unburden myself before thee and to pour into thine ears the desires of my heart. For Jesus Christ's sake give me the all-powerful help of thy Holy Spirit so that I may know how to make my wants and feelings known to thee *in an acceptable manner*; and that

while I speak to thee as friend speaks to friend, and keep back nothing from thee, and trust thee, as thou hast bidden me do fully, freely, and unreservedly, I may not overstep the bounds of reverence and godly fear.

I am in great perplexity and doubt. I am come to a place in which several ways meet, and I do not know which to take. It is most important that I should take the right path; but I am ignorant of the future, and I am unable to determine which is the right course to pursue. In this state of uncertainty I cast myself entirely on thy mercy in Christ. Thou knowest most accurately what is best for me to do. Thou knowest what is most for thine own glory, and I sincerely desire to seek

first thy kingdom and its righteousness, feeling sure that thou wilt give me all that is needful. Thou knowest what will be most for my own good, and I am quite sure that thou wilt, in thine infinite loving-kindness towards me, as one of thy dear children redeemed by the precious blood of thy Son, take me by the hand and lead me in the right way.

O thou omniscient and all-wise Being, I fully rely on thy wisdom and love. I plead the promise which is so clear, decided, and encouraging that no one who reads it can doubt thy love or thy willingness to direct: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth unto all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given *him*." Give me, I implore thee, the

strong faith which neither wavers nor doubts. I rely upon the promise and am sure thou wilt help me. Cast the bright beams of thy light upon my path. Let me see some indication of thy providential, guiding hand, and, even though the way may not be the one which I should myself have chosen, I will cheerfully take it.

Sometimes, I know, the path of duty is very plain and clear, but at the same time very difficult and rugged, and I shrink from following it; but, in this instance, all is darkness and perplexity; there is no light and no clearness. May I be preserved from secretly desiring to follow my own will in contradiction to thine, whenever it may be plainly revealed to me by thy providential

dealings with me. I desire to say from my heart and with all my heart, "Thy will, not mine, be done." I want to ascertain thy gracious will at all time and to resign myself and all I am and have into thy fatherly hands. O Lord, I wait upon thee. "Unto thee lift I mine eyes. Behold, as the eyes of thy servants look unto the hand of the masters, and as the eyes of a maiden look unto the hand of her mistress; so mine eyes wait upon thee, O God, until thou have mercy upon me." O guide, lead, strengthen, help me. Hear my humble and earnest, fervent prayer. Let my heart be filled with the light and peace of the Holy Ghost. May he, the third person of the ever blessed Trinity, give me wisdom, grace, and clearness of thought, *judgment*, and intellect. Lead thou me

in the way I should go. Let me trust thee at every step. Let me see plainly that thou hast guided me aright, and to thee shall be all the glory and all the praise in the name of thy dear Son, and my Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen and Amen.

XVI.

When Feeling Irritated.

“The gentleness of Christ.”—2 COR. x. 1.

O THOU high and holy One that inhabitest eternity, but hast promised to dwell in the humble and contrite heart; thou that dwellest in the solemn calm and quietude of the highest heaven, and art never ruffled even by the blasphemies and revilings of the wicked, permit me, all stained and defiled by evil temper, to draw near unto thee in humble prayer. May the *Holy Spirit* soothe and compose and

calm my ruffled feelings, and, taking of the things of Jesus, apply them with comfort to my soul.

I come unto thee simply and solely trusting to the merits of my adorable Redeemer. Enable me to see how much I have offended against thy divine laws, and how I am now offending by the exhibition of a temper which is entirely out of harmony with his holy character and with my own professions of allegiance to him. I plead his perfect obedience and keeping of thy perfect law for me in its spirit, temper, and inner nature ; and I entreat thee enable me to realize my standing before thee in him. O forgive me for his sake. Blot out this transgression, and may I indeed be accepted in the beloved.

O my God and Father, impart to me the spirit of true humility, meekness and evenness of temper. "By meekness and gentleness of Christ beseech thee, make me meek and gentle. He, "when he was reviled, reviled not." "He was oppressed, and he afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he was brought as a lamb to slaughter, and as a sheep before shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth." I call to mind how, in the midst of the battle and toil of doing good, and the heat of subtle argument and dispute, he was always calm and collected, only the sin of hypocrisy stirring his spirit. Now under far greater provocation than my dear Lord underwent, my equanimity has given way.

and I have broken thy law, both in the letter and in the spirit, by yielding to the suggestions of Satan, and being angry and irritable and cross.

Thou knowest, O my Father, how difficult it is for human nature to remain undisturbed amidst provocations; but enable me, I implore thee, to do that which by nature I cannot do, and to be that which by nature I cannot be. Breathe thy blessed spirit of loving-kindness and sweetness into my heart. Teach me to bear and to forbear. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away" from me. Thou knowest that sometimes the smallest and most trifling things put me out. Sometimes, when I am feeling weak and weary, I feel

irritable from no apparent cause. At such times strengthen and sustain me. Give me a double portion of thy grace. Let not the tempter gain advantage over me. Let thine everlasting arms be around and beneath me. Bear me upwards to thy throne above. Let me abide under the shadow of thy wing, O thou Almighty One, and let me dwell in the secret place of the most High.

I now commit myself afresh to thy kind care and keeping. Preserve me from my own evil self. Let me set my Lord always before me, and may I ever see his smile. Make me very distrustful of myself, and ever lean on him who is mighty to save. Keeping close to him in the conflict of life, and ever clinging *to him*, may I have joy and peace and



WHEN FEELING IRRITATED.

happiness imparted to my soul
the light of thy countenance be
upon me, and may I be glad
sunshine of thine approval. Al
inestimable blessings I ask only
name and for the sake of my Lo
Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

XVII.

For Unselfishness.

“Look not every man on his own things,
every man also on the things of other
PHIL. ii. 4.

O BLESSED Saviour, who for
sakes was contented to leave
inexpressible glories of Heaven, an
become “obedient unto death, even

which was in thee," be also in myself. Make me loving as thou wast loving. Make me unselfish as thou wast unselfish. Make me self-forgetting as thou wast. Let my mind linger over the acts of love and unselfishness and devotion which thou didst perform on earth. Let me never forget the nights of prayer and the days of toil which thou didst pass in order to perfect thine own filial obedience and to purchase our eternal salvation. Above all, let me continually bear in mind the crowning act of unselfishness, when thou didst bow thy head on the cross, and didst drink the cup of bitterness to the very dregs—not for thyself, but for others, for us and ours.

O Lord, I feel very keenly the hard

I am constantly thinking of my own good, my own aims, my own scheme my own desires. I sincerely want thee to be amended, and the only way in which it can be is, by my coming to thee in earnest, hearty, agonizing prayer and imploring thee to give me the help of thy Spirit so that my selfish nature may be stirred, and the heavenly spirit of thoughtfulness and care for others may be implanted there. Help me "rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Give me

whom I daily come in contact in the various relations of life. May I be as willing to listen to an infant's tale of sorrow as to the deeper troubles of a keen and sensitive mind full of high resolves or troubled with great perplexities of faith.

Dear Saviour, thou wast unwearied in thy labours of doing good, and the dull and common routine of life did not prevent thee from continuance in well-doing. I faint and feel weary far too soon. Give me the grace of perseverance. Give me the power to endure. Help me to sympathize with others, not only when my heart has been touched with a tale of woe, thus being moved by the sensation of the moment, but after the first feeling of pity has passed away.

what has been told me, and when I forget the words and action which accompanied the recital, may I still retain something of thy divine compassion and love. Amidst all, grant that I may never cause any one to imagine that I think lightly of sin, even when I deeply sympathize with those who are suffering from the consequences of sin. Teach me to have, ever fresh and vivid in my heart, a holy horror of evil ; but may I love the poor sinner, and long that he may turn to thee and accept that salva-

transactions, in the casual intercourse with my fellow-men, in the continually recurring relationships of family and friends, in visiting the sick and desolate and needy, in listening to accounts of happiness and joy, in the manifold varieties of daily existence which I am constantly encountering, I may ever remember thee, thy tenderness and thy sympathy. May I "go and do likewise," not trusting to my own strength, but always looking unto thee to give the right word. May my whole manner, when listening or speaking, show that I have been with thee, and have learned something of thy heavenly art of soothing and solace. May self be kept in subjection. May I not be selfish even in my religion. May I long that others should enjoy the same blessed

myself. Let my religion be
quiet, but diffusive. May it
be shed abroad. May all see
that I am thine, not by love
by constant asseveration,
hallowing influence of pur-
ness, of placing others before
true and heartfelt sympathy.
Saviour, again I pray, with
fervour of my soul, take me
in communion with thyself, and
be able truly to feel for and
both in sorrow and in joy

XVIII.

When Hearing of Detraction.

"Their tongue is a sharp sword."—Ps. lvii. 4.

BLESSED Jesus, thou light and life of the world, whom to know is everlasting life, whom to serve is perfect joy, I humbly entreat thee to hear me, as I draw near to place my confidence in thee. I find my happiness in thee. Thou art dearer to me than any earthly relative or friend. Joined to thee by the vital and indissoluble bonds of thy most holy faith, thou art my friend and brother, to whom I can impart the confidences which I can freely tell to no

may become closer and more intimate every day of my sojourn on earth, & be refined and perfected above. Thou hast been pleased to reveal to us that completely thou wast misunderstood the days of thy flesh. Even those who saw most of thee and cared most for thee misapprehended thy teaching, & did not fully enter into thy purposes of mercy, self-sacrifice, and love, until thou wast endued with wisdom and power from on high by the descent of the Holy Ghost. Still less could the

even "the drunkards made songs upon thee."

My Saviour and my Lord, make me strong and steadfast in the faith. Let my heart be thoroughly right with thee. Then, I earnestly beseech thee, let me not mind detraction. If I have thy favour and am cheered by thy smile, let me not care what others may say. May I be very careful lest I give occasion for being spoken against. The gist of thy most solemn benediction, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake," lies in the word "falsely." Let no eccentricity of manner or unkind behaviour or harshness of speech on my part give cause for any speaking against

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WHEN HEARING OF DETRACTION. 111

Do thou mercifully smooth away all difficulties, when they arise. Dissipate any cloud between myself and my Christian friends, directly it appears. Draw my heart towards them, and their hearts towards me. Give me more meekness and lowliness. Teach me to think little of myself. Help me to put the very best construction on all they say. Take away all touchiness. When I am told of anything that may have been said against me, let me pray for the person who said it, and, if possible, go to him at once and explain. Give me strength, however, never to compromise essential truth for the sake of being spoken well of or of gaining human applause.

O all-gracious Redeemer, I pour out

my heart before thee. Enable me to enter more fully into the meaning of thy words: "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me." Let me linger over them and treasure them in my heart. Let not human love or the desire of pleasing any one weaken my allegiance to thee. Let me not seek the approval and the cheering words of man before thine. Let thy words be sweeter to me than the words of man. Let thine approval be prized more than the approbation of man. So let me go on my way unmoved and undisturbed, when I hear of men speaking *against* me, provided that there is



WHEN HEARING OF

really no just cause for
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On the other hand, gi
my heavenly helper and d
to speak against others m
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speaking of others as I woul
should speak of me. This
blessing and the continual
the Holy Spirit in my hear
the sake of all that thou has
suffered for me and thy peo
hee, with the Father and th
ll the praise for ever. Am

XIX.

Against Worldly Conformity.

“The friendship of the world is enmity with God.”—JAMES iv. 4.

ALmighty God, who art “able to do exceeding abundantly above all that I can ask or think,” I come unto thee in thy dear Son’s name for free supplies of grace and strength. I fear that I am in danger of being beguil

fascinating evils. Keep me pure, sober, and holy in heart and thought. May I have grace, by the indwelling Spirit's power, to "mortify my members which are on the earth," and to "set my affection on things above." May I be strengthened to "war the good warfare" against the world, the flesh, and the devil. May no subtle temptation of the great adversary, either sensual or intellectual, overcome me. May I ever be on my guard against his devices, and, as I trust I am, in thy strength, standing, may I "take heed lest I fall." May I ever "watch and pray," lest my spiritual enemy take advantage of me, and I yield to any known vice of this apostate world.

I beseech thee, however, to protect

me from more than this. Keep from the spirit of worldliness. Let not be so engrossed by the things of time and sense as to forget the things of heaven. Let not the keenness of spiritual sense be dulled. Let my heart be responsive to the slightest touch of thy Holy Spirit. Let me be acutely sensitive to the least breath of sin. Let not even the most innocent pleasures of the world distract my attention from spiritual concerns, or render meditation of heavenly communion, and prayer unprofitable and tasteless. May I so pass through the ordinary duties of life, and so enjoy the pleasures which thou hast given me, that I may be ready to turn at any moment from *anything* in which I may be engaged, *and to raise my heart to thee in prayer.*



WORLDLY CONFORMITY.

and praise and adoration. Let sit loose to the things of earth, ready at any time to leave the my adorable Redeemer prayed, not be taken out of the world, or a to flee from it altogether into seclusion and seclusion ; but may I be kept the evil.

O holy Lord God, I feel the extraordinary difficulty sometimes of distinguishing between what is innocent and what is sinful in the world. I sorely need quick perception in this matter, which the Holy Spirit only can bestow. I will always to bear in mind the distinction between the world or the state of things by which I am surrounded, and out of which my Lord and Master does intend me to go, and the evil things

it which are at enmity with him, and the evil men who are in allegiance with "the god of this world." Give me the promised "unction from the Holy One," and spiritual light to shine upon my daily path, so that I may avoid every hidden snare and escape every pitfall. Vouchsafe thy heavenly guidance with regard to the difficult question of amusements—not those which are evidently wicked, for these I pray for grace to avoid altogether. May I be entirely the servant of Christ. May I go to no place where he would not have me go or where I would not wish to be found at his coming. Let me contract no friendship with those who are not the friends of my Lord.

But there are sometimes occasion

when I do find it difficult to know his will. In such cases and at such times I cast myself entirely on thee. Grant me thy heavenly insight. Let me do nothing which may cause reproach to be cast on thy blessed name, and go nowhere whither my going may cause thine enemies to sneer or blaspheme. Wherever I go, may Christ go with me. Then I feel sure I shall never be "conformed to this world." May I be so "transformed by the renewing of my mind" that I may thoroughly "prove what is thy good and acceptable and perfect will." Whenever any doubtful matter of any kind comes before me, may I have grace to bring it to thee in humble prayer in all simplicity and sincerity, and I am persuaded that I shall never seek for guidance in vain;

and my peace

and I shall ever be enabled to pass straight on along the narrow road, until I reach that happy place where there shall be no doubts or perplexities or heart-searchings regarding the daily practical life, but perfect happiness and assurance and unruffled peace in thine immediate presence. O that I may finally attain that happy haven through the merits of him who did, for me and all his faithful people, overcome the world, Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

XX.

When Assailed by Doubts.

“Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”—ROM. xiv. 23.

O LORD God, “my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower,” I call upon thee to save me from my spiritual enemies. I call upon thee in the name of Jesus Christ, thy well-beloved Son and my true and trusty friend. I call upon thee also in the name of the Holy Spirit of truth and strength. Doubts will, from *time to time*, occur in the minds of even

and accuser is always ready to
advantage of every wavering of
and every weakness of body. He
care to insinuate, just at the
moment, such doubts as "Yea
God said?" Is he watching over
caring for man? Why then is there
much unredressed evil and misery
world? Is the record contained
Bible true? Was that poor devil
man of whom we read there
"very God of very God?" There
a thousand other doubts of v

of faith, wherewith I shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one."

I call unto thee, therefore, O my God, with all the yearning fervour of a believing heart, to infuse into me stronger faith and more determined courage than I have ever yet possessed. In the first place, I beseech thee, bring up before my mind, in all the clearness of reality, the true personality and divinity of Jesus. He is the One to whom I instinctively flee, when spiritual doubts assail my soul. I feel that round him centres the whole of the hot fight now being waged between Christianity and infidelity. Either,—my lips can scarcely frame the words as *applied to him*, but I must utter them,—

that ever lived, or one with thee in glory
and majesty, the very God incarnate
That dear face scarred with thorns and
awful in humility, comes before me, as
if I had really seen it. Those sweet
words such as mere man never speak
ring in my ears. The life of good,
which enemies could never find a flaw
the death of shame, which has brought
comfort to millions of fainting hearts
the resurrection, the story of which
man could have invented—all, all speak
in power to my heart that here I

O my Lord and God, "stablish, strengthen, settle me" in this true faith. Doubts are not in themselves sinful; but doubts cherished, entertained, dallied with, are. Help me to be ever on my guard. Help me ever to watch and be in a prayerful mood. I am aware what an innumerable host of sceptical opinions under various specious names hover around me in the present day; but, however polished and intellectual they may be, there is the same old malice about them; and, behind them all, is the same coarse and blasphemous denial of thy very existence, which has been the belief of Satan's followers from the first until now. Men imagine that thou canst not be known. Man cannot indeed by searching find thee out with his intellect and in his own strength; but

word. 'There thou dost make
known to the meek, the lowly, and
contrite. With my gracious Lord
thank thee, O Father," that, while
thou hast "hid these things from the
wise and understanding, thou hast re-
vealed them unto babes."

O give me the meek and lowly
heart to which thy sacred truths are re-
vealed, and also the clear and manly in-
sight with which I may be permitted
the grace to defend the precious herit-

book. It seems to me, that the more minutely it is studied, the more beautiful its accuracy appears. There are parts of it which I do not understand ; but I humbly bow before thine inscrutable majesty, and believe that no revelation from the infinite and divine could be made, which would be, in all parts, transparently clear to the comprehension of the mortal and the finite. I am sure, however, that all will one day be made perfectly plain in the light of Heaven, and I "take it on trust a little while." Meantime, O my Father, nerve and encourage me in contending earnestly "for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints ;" but let it be in the "meekness of wisdom" as well as in the wisdom of meekness. Let me be firmly persuaded in my own mind of the

absolute truth of thine incomparable religion. Let it be the very joy and solace of my own heart. Let Jesus be my own tried friend. May neither menace nor cajolery move me from my firm grasp on his hand. Come when I come, in death, in trouble or in joy, in applause or under the frown of men, may I be his and his alone for ever and ever. And all I ask is for his sake. Amen.

XXI.

For Full Consecration.

the consecration of his God is upon his head."

—NUMBERS vi. 7.

LOST glorious Lord God, before whom the angels veil their faces . "the heavens are not clean in thy sight," I confess before thee my weakness . unworthiness. I am conscious of pollution of sin and of my inability to do anything good. But I plead the righteousness of my Saviour, and I lift eyes unto him as my only refuge and strength. "Without holiness no man can see thee," and I wish to be

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I trust, bathed in "the fountain open for sin and uncleanness;" but I need fresh quickening of thy Spirit. I long for the fire of divine love to burn brighter and clearer in my heart. I need a renewal of consecration to thy service. And here with all my heart and strength, with every energy of my mind and every faculty of my soul, with all the fervour of which my being is capable, I beseech thee, I entreat thee, give me more of thy spiritual blessings. Purge away all self-seeking from my heart. "Strengthen me with all might by thy Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in my heart by faith; that, being rooted and grounded in love, I may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the

that I may be filled with all thy fullness.
I earnestly pray for a deep and thorough consecration of my entire being unto thee and to thy service. I have made no vows ; I make no promises ; give myself to thee, " thine, only for aye to be."

What I really desire is that my entire being may be thine altogether and only for thee. Consecrate my entire being to thee. Let it, the center of my being and the source of my

commands, ever ready to go where thou dost send,—into the lowest alley if it is thy will to send me there, or to the remotest bounds of the world—to the abodes of poverty or to the houses of the rich—anywhere and everywhere, if thou only art the sender. Let me never mistake undirected enthusiasm for the indication of thy will ; but, when once thy will is clear, let me never hold back. Consecrate my hands for thee. Let them work for thee, write for thee, toil for thee. Let them soothe the death beds of thy saints ; let them cool the feverish brows of thy servants when ill ; let them help and cheer the struggling believer ; let them minister to the happiness of thy rejoicing servants. Consecrate my lips to thy blessed *service*. May they rejoice and animate

me courage to reprove profane
vice. Let me be always ready t
for thee, when occasions offe
willing to be silent, when si
better than speech. Let nothi
through my lips which is not
lovely, and of good report."
praises ever be on them, and
continually ascending from the
throne.

Consecrate to thy service my

religion, mistaking the pleasure of harmony for the spirit of prayer. Let me flee from all places where I may hear thy name profaned or thy religion spoken against. Give me a humble and teachable spirit, so that I may listen attentively to the preaching of the word, and store up its sacred truths in my heart. I beseech thee also to consecrate my faculty of sight. May I not only take heed as to what I hear, but as to what I see. Preserve me from willingly going where I shall see anything that is contrary to my Christian profession.

Most holy God, consecrate unto thy service every faculty of mind or body, and may I be completely thine. Not only *may* I pass through things temporal

eternal ; but may I have life more abundantly. May every spiritual blessing thou canst bestow on fallen man mine. May I not enter heaven in a battered hulk, with cordage rent, torn, and only just saved from wreck, though even that would be infinitely better than altogether missing the haven, but may I enter the haven like a ship in full sail and wafted by every favourable breeze ; through the merits of that Saviour who purchased me with his precious blood in order that my salvation

XXII.

For Right Judgment in all things.

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”—
JAMES i. 5.

O MY God and Father, the fountain of all grace and the inexhaustible source of all wisdom, I cast myself down before thy throne in lowly adoration and praise. Thou knowest my great and sore need of heavenly light, wisdom, and guidance in this dark world. O let thy holy and enlightening Spirit shine in upon my mind, and give me a right judgment in all things. I need his

I need his heavenly help and guidance in the affairs of business study. I need his secret and straining influence in my do concerns. I need his firm hand to me safely through the perplexities arise in my daily course. Above need his sacred unction and un direction in every thing connects my Christian faith, and in applying principles of thy holy word to practical details which continually
He has been my safe amidst the

from a heavenly point of view. Let me endeavour to judge of things as thou dost estimate them. Enable me honestly to ascertain and follow thy mind and will in every matter. Disperse the mists of human prejudice and error from my heart. Give me calmness of temper, clearness of thought, and a sincere desire to do what is right as in thy most holy sight, even though it may not be to my own worldly advantage. I feel quite certain that, though there may be no actual sign or token of thy will vouchsafed to me, thou wilt be sure to lead me in exactly the right path, if I bring each matter before thee in believing prayer and unfeignedly seek thy counsel and guidance in it. "All things," I am persuaded, "are working together for my good," because I love

intricacies and niceties, as
turnings and twinings of
that they shall issue in the
highest good, and in the
I love. O heavenly Lord
take me by the hand and
I will trust thee to the end

Whenever any difficult
before me, do thou give
tance of the Holy Spirit
come to a just and
Give me clearness of insight
may carefully weigh all

towards thee, intertwine itself with all my thoughts, purifying and sanctifying them. When others consult me, help me cheerfully to put aside the work on which I may be engaged, and enter thoroughly into their ideas and views, praying equally over their affairs as I would over my own. "The preparations of the heart" are from thee, "and the answer of the tongue." O grant me "the sanctified common sense" which we all need, and the heavenly "wisdom which is better than gold."

O thou God of truth as well as of wisdom, give me thy special help in considering spiritual matters. As there was in the early days of Christianity, when the Apostles warned their hearers against being beguiled by false teachers,

so is it in the present —

on all sides much specious error and most insidious admixture of unsound doctrine with the truth. The holiest men sometimes are led astray in minor matters, though they may be right in the grand essentials of the faith. Others hold deadly error, though most devoted in their lives and zealous in their work. In these dangerous times help me to stand on my guard. Let thy Holy Spirit guide me into all truth. Give me a right judgment on every point that may c

— heart warm

author and finisher of my faith," turning neither to the right hand nor to the left, seeking not the favour of man, but thine approval, and holding fast "the faith once delivered to the saints," as revealed in thy holy word. Keep me true in heart, sound in faith, clear in love, and holy in life, for the sake of thy well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

XXIII.

For Power in Christian

“His servants shall serve him.”—R

O GOD, my strength and
“who givest power to th
and to them that have n
increaseth strength,” hear t
prayer, and let my cry come u
I thank thee that thou hast,

vouchsafed to me, for "the night cometh, when no man can work." O give unto me a living, personal communion with that beloved Saviour, in whose name I draw near, so that I may receive out of his fulness, and thus be enabled to speak of that which I know and have felt and have seen. May I abide in him and he in me. May I be one with him and he with me. May his love be "shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Ghost," so that all I do for him may be real and true. May I be "full of the Holy Ghost," "strengthened with all power according to the might of his glory." Let me deeply and sincerely feel that I am positively unable to do anything of myself; but that in the strength of my Lord and Master I am able to do all things.

effectually touch
successfully move
penetrating power of
All that is to be done
in thee. Thou alone
the dull human heart
canst bestow the
Thou alone canst inspire
Thou alone canst reveal
thou art gracious
human instruments
May I be the happy

various gifts; but sometimes, in our short-sightedness and ignorance, we are inclined to employ ourselves in service for which we are not best fitted. I desire to place myself entirely in thy hands; and may the secret influence of the Spirit and the counsel of wise friends incline me not to such work as may seem to suit my own tastes so much as the very work for which thou, in thy good Providence, hast prepared me.

Whatever work I undertake, however, may I do it as unto thee and not to man, with all my might and with all my strength. Let me constantly look up from it unto thee. Let me ever remember that thine eye is on me and on it. Let my usual daily avocations

all direct personal service for
also completely consecrated
If thou callest upon me to
advocate thy cause, do thou
and through me. If thou request
to teach the ignorant and to
give me a winning manner and
patient temper. If thou callest
to perform any work, however
trivial, for the promotion of the
me put my whole heart into it
me do all with "a single eye

tasteless. If thou sendest me forth to cheer the sick or comfort the dying, let "the word in season" always be given me. Let me serve thee "with a willing mind" and "with a pure conscience." Let prayer ennoble all I do. Let me have a very close walk with thee. O my God, I do not know how to express all the fervency of my desire; but I sum up all in the earnest prayer that I may imitate thine own dear Son, Jesus Christ. Like him, may I go about doing good. Like him, may I yearn for the salvation of souls. Like him, may I be in continual communion with thee. Like him, may I forget self. Like him, may I be holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners." O for the power that comes from willing, hearty, unselfish,

HE LORD.

n. Drive away
tedness and fear.
ak hands, and
ees. Say to me,
for I am with
it on thee. I
the whole earth
Hasten to fill up
elect. Let thy
e. With me or
me in thine own
urposes will be
even though in
me be a fellow-
to thee shall be
ise in the name
Saviour and
Amen.

XXIV.

For Quietness of Spirit.

“Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”—LUKE x. 42.

O LOVING and heart-searching God,
“thy thoughts are not our
thoughts, neither are our ways thy
ways.” I would lay to heart this great
truth: thus saith the Lord, “As the
heavens are higher than the earth, so
are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”
Permit me, O gracious Father, for a few
moments to enter into communion with
thee by the power of the Holy Spirit,



active Christian duties
placed before me, and
everything in which I
to enjoy close and union
with thee. Like Mary
the feet of Jesus, I
loving words and follow
in this divine tuition
a time, be absorbed in
heaven, and drink
from the "pure river
which, "clear as crystal
the throne of God and

variety to do for thee. Every heart and every hand is needed in thy service. There is scarcely sufficient time to do all that has to be done. Individual labourers are overburdened and fatigued. In the midst of all this stir and flow of spiritual work, there is the danger of each one neglecting to lay in the needed supply of spiritual grace to enable him to do thy work effectually. We all stand in peril of neglecting the calm and contemplative and devotional side of religion in the deep and absorbing interest and excitement of the active and aggressive side of it. Thus our own spiritual energies flag. Our own souls languish, while we are helping others. The whirl of spiritual excitement agitates and unhinges us. We are ourselves in danger of going back-

never relax in work,
more frequent opport
retirement and of heart

Eternal Jehovah, wh
rulest over the hearts
teach me to have very
with thyself. I would
my own heart and be
my own exceeding in
nothingness in myself.
more and more from
Christ Strength

perform. Let me be conscious how very dear thy believing people are to thee for thy beloved Son's sake. Let me realize how intimate, how vital, how enduring the union is between him and them. May I realize also how fully thou dost sympathize with them in all the labours in which they are engaging for thee. There is not a word spoken, there is not a prayer offered, there is not a spiritual conflict endured, but thou knowest all. O Lord, not only cheer, comfort, refresh me, but lift up the light of thy countenance on all who are working for thee, wheresoever they may be and whatever they may be doing. Enable them also to "come apart and rest awhile." O Holy Spirit,

"Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace."

Gracious God, let me not feel disposed to grudge these quiet hours of meditation, thought, and prayer from the time of active labour. I am sure that every moment spent with thee is clear gain in every way. Only let my meditation be sweet, and my communion real, and I shall return to the conflict and the work with strengthened nerve and increased courage. Let me feel thy presence, and I shall go back to work with the glow of the spiritual light still lingering round me. All with whom I may come in contact will then perceive that I have indeed "been with Jesus" by the intensity of my love, the greater heavenliness of my demeanour, and the increased spring and elasticity of my work. *Let me thoroughly enjoy these quiet moments with thee. "Hide me," at such seasons*

“in thy pavilion, and in the secret of thy tabernacle.” Bring me into thy “banqueting house,” and let thy “banner over me be love.” Wrap around us the folds of thy tent. Let the sound of the world and its strife be entirely excluded. Let me be alone with thee. So shall I return to my post of duty, calm and determined, ready for any attack. So shall the sweeping restlessness of the age pass by and leave me unscathed. So shall I become fitted and braced for my work on earth, and “meet to be partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light,” through the abounding merits of the King of saints, and Prince of workers, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

XXV.

For the Conversion of Friends

“He which converteth a sinner from error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins.”
JAMES V. 20. (R.V.)

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, who knowest the secrets of all hearts, and seest all things, who “understandest all the imaginations of the thoughts of man, and hast all power over the inclinations of man, I, who am but sinful dust and ashes, would draw near unto thee in the spirit of devout and humble intercession. As Abraham, thy servant, and thy friend, interceded with thee

and thou didst hear him, so, I beseech thee, hear me as I plead before thee. I come implicitly relying on the finished work and on the perfect merits of the great Intercessor, thine own dear Son, Jesus Christ ; and I take pleasure and comfort in the thought that, while I am earnestly pleading here below, he is pleading for me and those for whom I am praying with the rich incense of his own intercession. May the Holy Spirit reveal unto me something of the mind and spirit of him, who, in the days of his humiliation, "offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears, and was heard in that he feared ;" and give unto me some measure of his love for souls, and of his fervent supplication for them.

Thou knowest exactly
feelings towards thee.
their very thoughts
hidden from thine
Thou hast discerned
thought, and hast no
ward aspiration which
through their minds.
from man is known
who dost "never break
nor quench the smoki
their hearts a holy f

Take away the heart of stone, and put within them a heart of flesh. Speak to them in love and mercy. Draw them near unto thyself, and show them all thy ways of kindness and tenderness. Let them see how thou didst give thyself for them, and didst leave the glories of Heaven, and keep thy Father's law, and incur thy Father's wrath on sin, and pour out thy precious blood, in order to win them unto thyself.

O gracious Father, send down thy Holy Spirit into their hearts. I would not usurp to myself, even in thought, thine own divine prerogative. Thou choosest whom thou wilt to be thy servants in this sinful world. Thy grace is full, free, and sovereign. But

thou deignest to use —

Thou hearest earnest prayer. Thou hast promised to answer every humble petition. Thou hast given me fullest and richest assurances in word. O save the souls of those whom I plead. Touch their consciences. Plead with them by the Spirit. Deliver them from darkness to light. Deliver them from the world to thyself. Break the power of Satan over their hearts. Let it cease. Snap the chains of sin from them. Bid them step out into freedom.

willest not the death of a sinner. Thou hast "no pleasure in the death of the wicked." O speak to these thyself, and remind them of thy love, and soften their hearts and turn them unto thee. Lord, I believe in thy faithfulness and truth. "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." With all the earnestness in my power, with all the faculties of my soul and spirit, I entreat, I implore thee, hear my petition and let my cry come unto thee, and save the souls of those I love. All I ask is in the all-prevailing name of Jesus, our intercessor, advocate, and friend. Amen.

XXVI.


On Commencing a

“Prosper thou the work of
us, O prosper thou our hand
xc. 17., P.V.

O THOU omniscient
God and Father, ‘
variableness, neither shalt
who knowest every thing
thou seest the end of

ask thy blessing upon it. I believe firmly that he whom thou blessest is blessed indeed, and that he from whom thou withholdest thy blessing is most unhappy. I am quite sure that nothing can prosper which does not receive thy divine sanction and approval, and that anything which has thine approving smile will be sure to succeed, even though it may, for a season, seem to fail. Mercifully give me the guiding light of thy Holy Spirit, and I feel persuaded that I shall not go wrong. I place my hand in thine, and ask that I may be led in a sure path.

Gracious God, I do not wish to form any plans or to make any arrangements without first consulting thee. I do not even desire to prepare schemes and



than not asking for t
but I want to consult
of the way, to be le
inception of every p
assistance of the Ho
part of its progress,
thou art leading me
beginning to the end.
event of my life, I
that it is begun, con
in thee.

Bless this petition

kingdom. May it be the means of doing good to man. May it be for my own good and for the benefit of those immediately connected with me. If thou seest that this will be the case, support and strengthen me in it. Make the way plain before me. Give me courage and nerve to overcome difficulties. Let me not be disturbed by apparent failures, nor elated by success. Keep me lowly, humble, and vigilant. Give me perseverance and patience. Guide thou my hand. Strengthen thou my heart. Cheer thou my spirits when they droop or flag.

I especially pray that every portion of this work may be consecrated to the service of my beloved Lord. I call to mind how he suffered, toiled, and died



nd.

but sin is
iv. 34.

Jehovah,
earth, by
decreed
throne in
for me;
invited an
pray "fi
place
lead
godlin
yer, a
the

sanctified by his atoning blood. may my object in it be the more effectually to promote his cause, and to promulgate his Gospel. Even though it may be what is usually called a secular employment, let it be ennobled and enriched by being linked with his redeeming work. Should this not be the issue grant that it may not succeed ; but I pray that it may be successful, and in exactly the right way, and I beseech thee with all reverence and dutiful submission to give it thy fatherly blessing and



XXVII.

For our Native Land.

“ Righteousness exalteth a nation : but sin is a reproach to any people.”—PROV. xiv. 34.

THOU great and glorious Jehovah,
Lord of heaven and earth, by
whom “kings reign, and princes decree
justice,” I bend before thy throne in
humble prayer and supplication for my
native land. Thou hast invited and
encouraged thy servants to pray “for
kings and all that are in high place”
and authority ; “that we may lead a
tranquil and quiet life in all godliness
and gravity.” O hear my prayer, as I
lift up my heart in earnest supplication



whom, as a professor
we are bound to
gracious Queen with
Cheer, strengthen,
her. Comfort her
bless her family
and give her the
needed for the
arduous and respon
out on all the pe
and empire the s
quietness, of cont
that every blessing

this country the continuance of the inestimable blessing of order and good government. Mercifully give her Majesty's ministers a single eye to thy glory and honour. Let the spirit of party, the desire of power, and the mists of prejudice be completely taken away from every heart. May the first objects of all be thy glory, the good of man, and the welfare of our country. Give our diplomatists wisdom from above, tact, integrity, and skill. Grant our senators thine assistance in all their deliberations. May both Houses of Parliament be led to prepare and alter the laws in thy faith and fear, with a sincere desire just to do what is right as before thee. Overrule for good all that may appear to be discordant or wrong. Bless all our judges and magistrates and

and order. Bless the
not only be the ma
and decorum ; but
conspiracy be broug
may all discontent,
repining be allevia
May every just comp
Draw the hearts o
together. Let there
and heart-burnings b
out thy Holy Spirit
Draw all hearts to t

that true godliness may increase in England. Bless all the ministers of thy Gospel with earnestness, and energy, and spiritual fire. Let their every word and act show that they mean what they say, when they speak of the love of Christ and the blessedness of his religion. May all who name the name of Christ depart from evil. May all speak for him and of him wherever they go. May the clear light of the pure Gospel ever shine in this land and out from it to other lands, so that the whole earth may see and know that this country is Christian indeed, and have cause to rejoice that the empire of England has extended so far as it has. Bless our army and navy, our merchants, our traders, our authors and our students, our farmers, our artificers, our



uprightness of
and increase.

O bless us and
countenance up
as a people, may
it is to serve thee
May every evil
unequal observa
us, and do thou
word of peace, "
up as the young
daughters may be
of the temple."

Happy" indeed "are the people that are in such a case ; yea, blessed are the people who have thee for their God." May this transcendent blessedness be ours, for thy Son, Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

XXVIII.

For the Temperance Cause.

“Drunkards shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”—1 COR. vi. 10.

ALMIGHTY God, our Heavenly Father, while praying for my native land and beseeching thee to pour thy blessings upon her, I would especially

therefore, unto thee with special earnestness and fervour that thou wouldest be pleased to take away from the people of England this terrible reproach. Thou hast bestowed upon them very many and very great virtues and advantages. In many respects it can justly be said of us as a nation that we are "a wise and understanding people." But our "wisdom and understanding in the sight of the nations" can only be made apparent and abiding by keeping and doing "the statutes and judgments" which thou hast commanded. In England thy word has, notwithstanding all national failures and faults, been really loved and jealously guarded. May the grace of sobriety and self-control, which is so carefully enjoined in that sacred volume, become her crowning glory.


who hast compassion on those that
erred from the paths of thy ways
art "touched with the feeling of
infirmities," and who, "in the days
thy flesh," "suffered, being tempted
art able to succour them that
tempted," have mercy on all that
fallen into this degrading sin.
grant them strength and power to
resist the insidious temptation of
Let thy Holy Spirit touch their
and there exercise his sanctifying
Enable

the Spirit." Let them not trust in themselves or in their own resolutions or vows, or in anywise "lean on an arm of flesh;" but let them look unto thee alone and trust in thee alone, for thou art "mighty to save." There is no evil habit, however enchanting; there is no vice, however fascinating, from which thy blood and thy love cannot set free. O Jesus, Saviour, stretch forth thine hand and say to those who are writhing under the abominable infatuation of intemperance, "I will; be thou clean;" I command thee, "Come out of him;" and, when the heart has yielded, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

Compassionate Redeemer, who didst shed tears of love over impenitent and

hardened Jerusalem, look down in tenderness and pity on the drunkard's miserable home. Have mercy on those whose lives are made wretched by selfishness and sin. Give them, in the first place, the consolation of safety in thee and forgiveness in thine atoning sacrifice, and then wisdom, tact, and care in presenting thy truth in all its attractiveness before those who have fallen into the tempter's snare, and are being led "captive by him at his will." Assist them so to live and so to act that they may exhibit in their own characters the persuasiveness of sobriety and holiness. May all who have the management and tuition of the young be careful in every way to show forth in their sight the beauty of temperance. *May all masters and mistresses, and*

employers of labour do all within their power to advance this heavenly cause. Incline the hearts of all in authority, of the wealthy, and of the learned to exercise the virtue of thorough self-control themselves, and to set a noble example to others. Give the same self-reliance and restraint to all of thy servants who are artisans and labourers. Bless in the same hallowed work all those who are in business or trade. May the Legislature devise wise and feasible measures for promoting the progress of temperance, and thus advancing the highest good and the noblest interests of England. Blessed Saviour, in thine infinite mercy, pour the Holy Spirit on all orders and conditions of men in this land, draw them to thyself, show them thy



the earth, as tempera
well as manly, uprig
integrity and honour;
earth shall sing of thy
and be glad. So, in th
it be. Amen.



XXIX.

For Missions at Home.

“ Eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared.”—NEH. viii. 10.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, Lord of heaven and earth, whose strength is our joy, mercifully permit me to draw near in the name of Jesus Christ in humble intercession and prayer. “ Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes,” and all unworthy in myself; but thou, “ the Judge of all

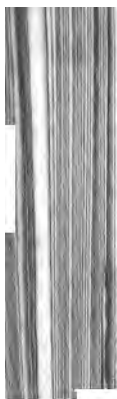
the same,
intercessions of thy people for us
when presented in the name of him
is the great Intercessor, who "liveth to make intercession" for us
that come unto thee through
Therefore I raise unto thee my fervent
prayer for the multitude who, even in
this nominally Christian land, practically
know thee not, and are consequently
without thee and without hope in this
world. O my God, have mercy,
mercy upon them. "O send on us
thy truth, that they may be saved."

light which shines so clearly in this land, for all the true and faithful followers of the Lamb and for their godly lives ; but this makes the surrounding darkness all the more appalling. O pour out thy Holy Spirit far and wide. Touch cold and dead hearts. Teach men to see their misery and sin, and to look unto Jesus and be saved.

O gracious God, whose eye is quick to mark the faintest turning of the sinful heart to thee and the slightest act of love done in thy name, bless every effort for good attempted in thy strength. There never was, perhaps, an age in which so much is really being done for thee. O give thy blessing to it all. Lift up the light of thy countenance upon it. Grant that all efforts may be wisely and

judiciously applied, and that the Spirit himself may indicate the way and will with regard to every usefulness. May all be under thy name. Let there be no or clashing. Let there be no seeking or desire of applause or renown. May the one sole thy glory and the good men. May Christ be exalted in all Christian work. May all our art now reconciling and

sanctify every scheme for the salvation of souls. Be with all who, especially in our densely populated cities, go about from street to street, from house to house, and from room to room, to take the message of the Gospel home to each individual. Give the fitting words, exactly the appropriate message, the loving heart, and the quick thrill of sympathy. Let the good news never lose its freshness and its power. Be especially with those who are called to enter the haunts of vice and houses of infamy in order that they may take the same loving message there also. Have mercy on all who have gone astray from the paths of purity and virtue. O thou good Shepherd who didst leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness and seek for the one that was lost,



be joy in the present
Heaven over souls for
Many have lived all
midst of vice and b
Do thou bless and
for the alleviation
overcrowded dwelling
arrangements. Let
thropic designs be
approval and by thi
thy blessed religion
to all.

pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live," have mercy on those who will not have mercy on themselves. Open thou their eyes. Let them look on him who died for them, and whom thou didst give that "whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Bless every passage of Scripture read or quoted, and send it right home, like a sharp "two-edged sword," to the depths of their hearts. Help us to put aside all our doubts, prejudices, and divisions. Teach us how best we can join together, heart and soul, to combat the hosts of darkness, and to work, while it is day, to reclaim the fallen, to raise the faint, to instruct the young, to cheer the depressed, to release the captive soul, to animate the true-hearted; and, do

thou we-

Christian England may be
Christ's, Immanuel's own land,
sake. Amen.

XXX.

For Missions Abroad.

“The God of the whole earth.”—ISAIAH liv. 5.

O GOD, the Creator and Preserver, the Upholder and Redeemer, of all mankind, give me, I beseech thee, the true spirit of universal love for all men, and grace to show it in a right way. I believe that thou didst, in thine infinite love, send thy dear Son to die for all and that thou hast purposes of mercy for all. It was his express desire that the blessed Gospel of redeeming love should be proclaimed throughout the whole world, and his last words of



farewell to the world. I
should be his "witnesses unto
most part of the earth." Let
me the same mind as he has
same yearning desire for the
souls. Let me look not at the
appearance of men and things
at the invisible kingdom by which
we are surrounded, and which,
unseen but subtle power of
is continually influencing them
me to think of their immortal
may the predominant desire of

— W. J. M. M.

who hast commanded thy servants to pray that thou wouldest "send forth labourers into thy harvest," mercifully hear the petition which I now offer to thy divine majesty. Give thine abundant blessing to all those Societies which are engaged in searching for, preparing, and sending forth labourers to work for thee in foreign lands. Give thy Holy Spirit to all who are employed in the management of their affairs. Bestow upon them a hearty love for perishing souls, keen spiritual discernment, the spirit of perfect harmony and unity, heavenly wisdom, fervent zeal tempered with discretion and sobriety, a single eye to thy glory united with prudence and care, and a sincere desire to be simply guided by the teaching of the Holy Spirit. Cheer and encourage all who take an

interest in mission—

“speak, preach, labour, give, or
for this sacred purpose. Increase
number of those who are thus
labourers” with thee in the e
of thy kingdom. Deepen and
the spirit of prayer with this
May we all put more heart
daily petition, so often uttered
feebly realized, “Thy kingdom
Let there be no town or v
hamlet in this Christian la
something is not done for

— Amen —

Give special grace to those who are instructing them. Be with thy Missionary servants in whatsoever part of the world thou mayest have ordered their lot. Be unto them "as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come." May the Lord Jesus be their friend, companion, and comforter. May he uphold them when their spirits sink or fail. May he cheer them whenever they may suffer from the effects of unhealthy climate, depression of mind, or absence from beloved relatives and friends. May he give them skill and learning and perseverance in acquiring the language of the people among whom thou callest them to labour. May they understand and sympathize with the social tastes and feelings of heathen people, while abhorring their

idolatry, and yearning for their
ance from it. May they procla
Gospel of the crucified Saviour in
purity and freshness, looking un
to own and bless it, and feeling s
thine own word will never, can
return to thee void. Let no disc
ment daunt, no disappointment
failure appal, no dull routine
them. Amidst all, may Jesus
be to them a living reality, "an
place from the wind, and a cove
the tempest ; as rivers of water
place, as the shadow of a great
a weary land."

Bless thine own ancient race,
who art "a light to lighten the C
and the glory of thy people
and may they look on him who

have pierced and rejected." Look also in mercy on all Mohammedan, Buddhist, and heathen nations. Open their eyes that they may see the truth as revealed to mankind in thy word. Teach the followers of Mohammed to worship thee, the one true God, and to own thy Son as the only Prophet of thy people ; and may idolaters cast away their idols, and call on thee, the living God. Deal tenderly with all who are feeling after the truth, and bring them into the clear light of the Gospel. Bless the reading of every portion of thy holy book to the enlightenment of their souls. Pour thy Holy Spirit upon all native Churches, congregations, and converts. Keep them sound in the faith and holy in life. Let the lamp of divine truth shine out from them with unwavering

radiance into the dense darkness by which they are surrounded. Bring out of all nations a people to serve thee. Hasten the day of thy Son's return in glory, when all shall serve and praise thee, for that blessed Saviour's sake. Amen.

XXXI.

For the Spirit of Thanksgiving.

“Praise is comely.”—PSALM cxlvii, 1.

ETERNAL and ever adorable Jehovah, who delightest in the praises of thy people, enable me to draw near into the very Holy of Holies by the precious blood of the Lamb, and there to pour out my heart before thee in secret, praying for the spirit of thankfulness and praise. I thank thee with all the power of my soul for the innumerable blessings which thou hast so graciously bestowed upon me. 1


would take up the words of the Psalmist and adopt them as my own—"Praise the LORD, O my soul. While I live will praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being."

Praise the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me praise his holy name."

would praise thee, because thou art in thyself so worthy to be praised. All the earth is full of thy goodness and glory. Angels and archangels, and all the company of Heaven rejoice in thy presence above. Thou art worthy to be praised for all thy divine attributes. thy wisdom, thy marvellous power, thy all-seeing providence, thy justice, thy loving kindness fill our hearts with astonishment and thankfulness.

But chiefly, O heavenly Father, thou

art to be praised for the exceeding love which thou hast shown towards the children of men. Words cannot express the depth of my gratitude and adoring praise for thy mercy in having had compassion on our fallen race, and for having remembered us in our low estate. I thank thee for having so loved the world that thou didst give thine only begotten Son that through him it might be saved. I bless and praise and magnify thy holy name for this convincing proof of thine unspeakable affection to mankind. I praise thee for the revelation thou hast given of thy will, for the affecting story of the Saviour's life and death, and for the simple but sovereign way of salvation by free, unmerited grace. I praise thee for the gift of the Holy Spirit to lead sinful



man to Jesus and to
holiness of life. I praise t
promises of thy word on
hast caused thy servants t
praise thee for the promise
life and for the anticipated
Heaven. "Eye hath not s
heard, neither have enter
heart of man, the things
hast prepared for them the
but I render unto th
grateful thanks that thou
them unto us by thy Spi

praise thee, as I do this day." I thank thee that I can see how exceedingly sinful and unworthy I am in myself, and that I am able to look away from myself and my own evil heart of unbelief "unto Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith." I praise thee for the treasures of grace laid up for us all in him. I praise thee for the many temporal blessings which thou hast given me in him. I look unto thee as the giver of all I possess, and desire to use it all in thy service. I thank thee also for those things which thou hast in mercy denied. I thank thee that thou hast ordered all my lot, and that, notwithstanding what thou hast withheld, and the necessary trials and discipline of the road, thou hast permitted "the lines to fall unto me in

pleasant places," and that t
me beside the green pastu
still waters of thy Gospel.

I also render hearty thanl
O heavenly Father, for the l
thou hast given me of c
and of everlasting life. Th
is full of the most encoura
regarding the future. Th
honour will be fully vi
the earth shall see thy

Therefore, O heavenly Father, once more I raise my heart unto thee in joyful adoration and praise, and take into my lips, all unworthy as they are, the songs and praises of Heaven, saying, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." Amen.

XXXII.

For Continuance in Prayer

“Watch (or be sober, R.V.) unto prayer
1 PETER iv. 7.

O GOD of all comfort and
give me at this time th
Spirit to draw my heart heave
and to breathe into me the true
supplication, intercession, and

and commands into practice. O grant that my petitions may not be lifeless and pointless. Take away from me all earthliness, formality, and indifference. Let the fire of thy Holy Spirit burn away all the dross, and fill me with divine reality whenever I approach thy throne of grace. Let me always be impressed with the deepest reverence. I know, I feel, that prayer is the most solemn transaction in which mortal man can engage. Let this happy consciousness ever abide with me. Let me pray continually, and let the spirit of prayer intertwine itself round all the transactions of my daily life; but let me never pray as a mere matter of course, without care or thought or watchfulness. Pardon me for every thoughtless petition offered in times

past, and more
future from all carelessness and co

O thou who hast encouraged
pray, and hast an overflowing abu
in thy treasury of grace for
importunate seeker, give me
insight into my own spiritual ch
a true knowledge of my wants,
spirit of longing intercession
advancement of thy kingdom
spiritual welfare of others. L
be order and system in my
O thou who hast encouraged me

answer is not always manifest. It may seem to be withheld. In fact, it sometimes appears as if the answer were the reverse of what was desired or requested ; but I am quite certain that the prayer has been heard, although thou hast in love and mercy denied the petition, because thou hast, in thine inscrutable wisdom, seen that it was not for my good or for thy glory. I am, however, sure that the best answer will invariably be granted. Help the infirmities of my nature, I beseech thee, and infuse into my heart that urgent, earnest, all-prevailing faith which overleaps all difficulties, and will not be denied the spiritual blessings I need so much. Teach me how to concentrate my spiritual energy, for the procuring of some grace which I more especially require at some particular time,

particular
most care
he answer.

for the
Lord and
reign with
to set all
is coming
time of
nd peace.
t that day
we should
his warning
"Take ye
e know not
I say unto
" Let me
eat day, as
the morning

to break. Let me always be in an attitude of expectation. Let me never go anywhere nor be engaged in any employment, where I would not be found by my Lord when he comes. May I pray continually for his coming. May I never be weary nor faint. May I be enabled to watch "the signs of the times," with no fanatical impatience, but with the calm assurance that every word spoken by thee will most certainly be fulfilled. O Jesus, blessed Saviour, I would sum up all my petitions, all my aspirations, all my prayers, with the cry which thou hast thyself put into the mouth of thy saints when thou didst announce thy near approach, "Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Come back to this weary and sin-stained

world. Come to claim thine own. Come to bring in the reign of peace. Come to conquer sin and Satan. Come to receive to thyself thy waiting Church and people. It is not thine, however, which we want,—not thine, but thee. Thy spiritual presence constitutes now all our joy and happiness ; but we want thyself, thine own person and thine own presence. When that happy day arrives may I and all I love, with all thy people, lift up our heads with joy, saying, “ Lo, this is our God ; we have waited for him, and he will save us : this is the LORD ; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” Amen.

γρηγορεῖτε καὶ προσεύχεσθε.

“ Watch and pray.”

London: ~~William~~ Hunt and Company.







7-11-44

